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John McKenzie, Project Manager
County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Re: Draft EIR for Cold Canyon Landfill Expansion

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns about some of the elements included in the Draft EIR for the proposed expansion of the Cold Canyon Landfill facility.

Our major areas of concern with the expansion are the increased hours, noise, water use, traffic, trash and vectors that will directly affect the value and our use of our property. We understand that San Luis Obispo needs a place to put its trash and now that Cold Canyon has purchased the adjacent property they can now expand with the County's approval.

The proposed expansion would increase the hours of the landfill to 15 hours a day. In the past seven years we have made very few complaints about the noise and the only complaints were because we could hear the equipment and/or extremely loud music in our home with all of the windows closed before 8:00 a.m., on a Sunday morning. We can hear the noise from inside our home even with all of the windows closed and that's pretty much constant during regular operating hours. Because we chose to live here, that's a price we've paid, but we know that after about 5:00 p.m., we will enjoy a beautiful quiet night.

The idea that the hours should be increased to 15 hours a day based on the fact that San Luis County seems to be based on old statistics. The main growth in our County has been in North County and they have a landfill. How can the current growth rate ever justify any increase in hours, let alone the increase that Cold Canyon is proposing? Bigger cities in California have landfills that aren't open on Sundays and Cold Canyon already operates seven days a week. Trash production has declined and is expected to keep declining, so why would they need such an increase, those statistics could be argued that they should decrease their hours. An increase in hours would produce noise for what accounts to almost 24/7 of our waking hours at our home. Our friends would like to have their son's rehearsal dinner at

our barn next June. I can't imagine what that will be like with the equipment and other operating noise going on in the background. If the landfill is open at night, then of course it will have to use a lot of energy to be lit for safety reasons. If this is approved, we will be looking at (and hearing) the landfill operations all lit up at night instead of looking at the stars. Using what would account to huge amounts of electricity to light up night operations would certainly not fall into any "green" category. If there does come a time where it is truly justified to have the landfill in San Luis Obispo County run 15 hours a day, they should come back to the County then to request that the hours be increased, not when there is absolutely no basis for the increase now or even the next decade or longer.

The landfill is already enormous and needlessly unsightly. What little mitigation was required by the County to address the issues of exposed dirt and dust have not been enforced from the last approval. Is there actually an option of making a determination whether to use the water for plant coverage or divert it to the composting operation? The well water was measured after two extraordinarily wet years. What will it be like after we have several years of drought? We are concerned that the water will continue to be drained by landfill operations and when the next drought hits, there won't be any water left. Their history of under-reported water usage and failure to deal with the black run off that was obviously polluting the creek, killing the fish and frogs and that ultimately created that environmental "dead zone" does not instill a lot of optimism that this time they will be different. Run-off from the facility goes into our wells and into a seasonal creek that our livestock survive on.

An additional concern is the increased traffic along Highway 227, already a very busy commuter route. I cannot imagine what this road will be like during the commute hours if the increased hours of operation are approved. There will certainly be a tremendous amount of complaints from the many commuters and bicyclists who now travel through every day. The safety of the road will be further compromised with such a huge increase in traffic.

We have never made a formal complaint about the seagulls and other birds that land on our pastures that can transport disease from the trash at the landfill. We have had so many seagulls camped on our property for weeks on end, that friends have joked that we were "raising seagulls" out here, and even though that's actually a pretty funny joke, we do worry how those birds affect the health of our livestock and their water sources. How would Cold Canyon mitigate that?

An additional factor that would result from the expansion is the increase of trash that falls out of trucks along the way. Just three weeks ago I stopped on 227 to pull a thick plastic bag out of a calf's mouth at a neighboring property. It was obvious that the calf picked up the bag from the many bags and litter that was all along the fence line. The calf was only a few weeks old and obviously a pretty terrible sight. I removed the bag from the calf's mouth and picked up the other litter so the calf couldn't ingest anything else that would probably kill it. Cold Canyon is supposed to keep the area free of trash but it is usually completely littered and this is the time where they are on their best behavior, so to speak.

The neighbors have been portrayed by this multimillion dollar company as bullies and that our complaints caused the compost operation to be shut down. Instead of owning their violations and being honest about the real cause of their shut down, their spokesperson went on the local airwaves to blame the neighbors. We have complained less than 1% about any noise, trash, odor or any other issues that we experience on a daily basis and our guess is that's pretty much true for about 90% of the neighbors. We are thankful for the people that are diligent about reporting their complaints because you get an actual picture of what is like to be Cold Canyon's neighbor. It's hard to feel neighborly for a company whose spokesperson blames us for shutting down the composting when they were "clearly" doing it of

their own accord. Tom Martin also said on air in response to a question about water use that, "all of the neighbors have access to the 'sweet water.'" That statement was strange for a variety of reasons, but is also very telling about the company's attitude toward their neighbors and the attitude that they are justified in using any water available because the neighbors we can just go drill -just a few hundred feet down is the part he conveniently left out of that statement. Really strange that someone in Tom's position wouldn't know that drilling for water that deep is prohibitively expensive and a pretty dicey option.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider how this proposed expansion will affect the people who live in Edna valley, the others who travel through every day and the animals that live here. We know that the County is working very hard on this project and we do appreciate all of your work.

Very truly yours,

Jim & Margaret Neville